

HERITAGE NEWS

NEWYDDION TREFTADAETH

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 16 SUMMER 2013
CYLCHLYTHYR SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD BLAENAFON RHIFYN 16 HAF 2013

Celebrate Blaenavon!

Save the date! Blaenavon World Heritage Festival returns on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June 2013!

Visit Blaenavon Heritage Town on Saturday 29 June from 11.30am - 4.00pm for a fun packed day of family entertainment! This year's event includes pony rides, a miniature steam railway, music, craft stalls, a Victorian Fair and much much more! Plus remember to visit the range of quality shops already in town.

The Heritage Parade starts at 1.00pm from the top of Broad Street and this year celebrates the achievements of key historic figures from the town including Sarah Hopkins and Ken Jones. The parade is enjoyed by everyone young and old so come and join in, everyone is welcome! If you would like to help out with the preparations for the parade contact the World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333.

Celebrate the rural heritage of the World Heritage Site on Sunday 30 June at Garn Lakes, 10.30am - 4.00pm. Visit the craft marquee; enjoy story-telling, face painting, trampolines and the return of the dog show! Plus, take a ride on the FREE vintage bus which will be operating all day long. Car parking £2.

For further information on the World Heritage Festival, telephone the Blaenavon TIC on (01495) 742333 / www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Dathlu Blaenafon!

Cofiwch y dyddiad! Mae Gŵyl Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon yn dychwelyd ar ddydd Sadwrn 29 a dydd Sul 30 Mehefin 2013!

Beth am ymweld â Thref Treftadaeth Blaenafon ar ddydd Sadwrn 29 Mehefin o 11.30am - 4.00pm am ddiwrnod llawn hwyl ac adloniant i'r teulu oll! Mae'r digwyddiad eleni yn cynnwys merlota, rheilffordd ager fach, cerddoriaeth, stondinau crefft, Ffair o Oes Victoria a llawer, llawer mwy! A chofiwch alw heibio'r siopau hyfryd sydd eisoes yn y dref.

Mae'r Orymdaith yn dechrau am 1.00pm o ben uchaf Heol Lydan ac eleni mae'n dathlu llwyddiannau enwogion allweddol y dref yn cynnwys Sarah Hopkins a Ken Jones. Mae'r orymdaith yn gyfle i bawb fwynhau, boed hen neu ifanc, felly dewch yn llu i ymuno â ni. Mae croeso i bawb! Os hoffech helpu gyda'r paratodau ar gyfer yr orymdaith, cysylltwch â Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd ar 01495 742333.

Cewch gyfle i ddathlu treftadaeth wledig Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ar ddydd Sul 30 Mehefin ger Llynnoedd y Garn rhwng 10.30am - 4.00pm. Beth am ymweld â'r babel grefftau; mwynhau cyfle i baentio wyneb, trampolinau a'r sioe cŵn sy'n dychwelyd unwaith eto! A, beth am fynd ar daith AM DDIM ar yr hen fws fydd yn cludo drwy gydol y dydd. Parcio £2.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Wyl Treftadaeth y Byd, ffoniwch Ganolfan Croeso Blaenafon ar (01495)742333 / www.visitblaenavon.co.uk www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Happy Birthday Big Pit!

Pen-blwydd Hapus Pwll Mawr!

Page 2

Forging a Digital Future from an Industrial Past

Page 6 - 7

Iron Bridge Restored

Adfer Pont Haearn!

Page 11

Coming Events

Digwyddiadau sydd i ddod

Page 12



visitblaenavon.co.uk

www.fb.com/visitblaenavon

Happy Birthday Big Pit!

We continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary at Big Pit with a host of events during the summer and autumn.

From Monday 22 July until Friday 2 August (11am - 4pm), Miners' Fortnight - Sea, Sand and Coal Dust has activities for children of all ages including storytelling and craft making.

Our Gala Day on Saturday 27 July (11am - 4pm) will be a fun filled day with Punch & Judy, balloon modelling, Blaenavon Town Band, competitions, demonstrations, workshops and much more. You'll be sure to find something to entertain all the family and to help you get into the party spirit!

On display until September, Antique Trinkets and Defunct Industrial Machinery looks at the demise of heavy industry in Wales and the rise of the 'industrial museum'.

Not to be missed is our ever popular Autumn Lecture Series in October and November, with guest speakers and interesting topics.

Entry to Big Pit is FREE, although a small charge may apply to some activities and workshops.

To find out more about these and other events taking place, visit www.museumwales.ac.uk or call (029) 2057 3650 or 0300 111 2333.

Pen-blwydd Hapus Pwll Mawr!

Rydym yn parhau i ddathlu ein Pen-blwydd yn 30 yma ym Mhwll Mawr gyda llu o ddiwyddiadau yn ystod yr haf a'r hydref.

O ddydd Llun 22 Gorffennaf tan ddydd Gwener 2 Awst (11am - 4pm), mae gan Bythefnos y Glowyr - Môr, Tywod a Llwch Glo weithgareddau i blant o bob oed yn cynnwys adrodd storïau a chrefftau.

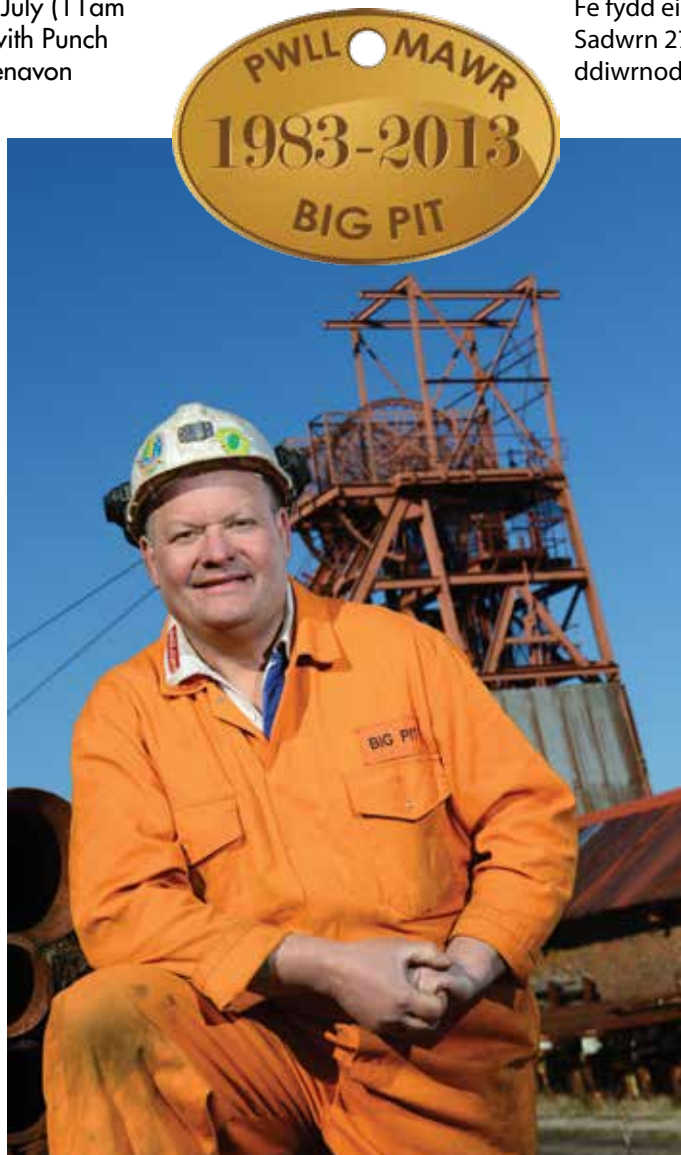
Fe fydd ein Diwrnod Gala ar ddydd Sadwrn 27 Gorffennaf (11am - 4pm) yn ddiwrnod llawn hwyl gyda Phwnsh a Jwdi, modelu balwnau, Band Tref Blaenavon, cystadlaethau, arddangosfeydd, gweithdai a llawer mwy. Byddwch siŵr o ddod o hyd i rywbeth i ddi-ddori'r teulu oll ac i'ch helpu i ymdrochi yn yr hwyl!

Tan fis Medi, fe fydd Hen Dlysau a Pheirianwaith Diwydiannol Segur yn edrych ar ddiplaniad diwydiant trwm yng Nghymru a dyfodiad yr 'amgueddfa ddiwydiannol'.

Achlysur i'w gofio bydd yr hynod boblogaidd 'Cyfres Darlithiau'r Hydref' ym mis Hydref a Thachwedd, gyda siaradwyr gwadd a thestunau diddorol.

Mae mynediad AM DDIM i Bwll Mawr, er gellir codi tâl bach am rhai o'r gweithgareddau a gweithdai.

I ganfod mwy am y rhain a'r digwyddiadau eraill a gynhelir, ewch i www.museumwales.ac.uk neu ffoniwch (029) 2057 3650 neu 0300 111 2333.



Blaenavon Ironworks – It's a Blast!



Blaenavon Ironworks – heart of the World Heritage Site – is getting a new lease of life by Cadw.

A significant programme of improvement and interpretation is underway aimed at improving the visitor experience. The new interpretation is bold and creative, with large-scale steel artwork complimenting new on-site audio. The exhibition is being redeveloped with engaging new graphics, an enhanced site model and better displayed artefacts. This will be complimented by specially created child-friendly cartoons that explain the global contribution that Sidney Gilchrist Thomas and his cousin Percy Carlyle Gilchrist made to steel manufacturing. The cottages in Stack Square have been given a makeover too and now reflect life on site up to the end of the 1960's. However, the focal point will be the 'Furnace Experience' in the Casting House. Here Cadw are aiming to recreate the intensity of the ironmaking process and give visitors a taste of the 'vision of hell' that would have greeted them here in the late 19th century.

The Blaenavon Ironworks project is part of Cadw's £19 million Heritage Tourism Project which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

Gwaith Haearn Blaenavon – Mae'n Fwrlwm!

Mae Gwaith Haearn Blaenavon - sydd wrth wraidd Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ar fin cael ei fwyogi gan Cadw.

Mae rhaglen gwelliannau sylweddol ar y gweill i fwyogi'r dehongliad a gwella profiadau'r ymwelwyr sy'n dod i'r safle. Mae'r dehongliad newydd yn drawiadol a chreadigol, gyda gwaith celf dur ar raddfa fawr yn ategu at y profiad clywedol newydd ar y safle. Mae'r arddangosfa yn cael ei hailddatblygu i greu deunydd graffeg newydd, gwella'r safle a chreu cyfle gwell i weld yr arteffactau sydd yno. I ategu at hyn fe fydd cartwnau arbennig ar gyfer y plant, er mwyn egluro'r cyfraniad byd-eang a wnaed gan Sidney Gilchrist Thomas a'i gefnder Percy Carlyle Gilchrist at y broses cynhyrchu dur. Mae'r bythynnod ar Stack Square hefyd wedi cael eu hadfywio ac erbyn hyn maen nhw'n adlewyrchu bywyd ar y safle hyd at ddiwedd y 1960au. Fodd bynnag, fe fydd y prif ffocws ar y 'Profiad Ffwrnais' yn y Tŷ Bwrw Haearn. Yma, mae Cadw yn anelu i ail-greu dwysedd y broses gwneud haearn a rhoi blas i ymwelwyr o'r darlun o uffern' fyddai wedi ymddangos o'u blaenau ar ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif.

Mae prosiect Gwaith Haearn Blaenavon yn rhan o Brosiect Twristiaeth Treftadaeth Cadw, gwerth £19miliwn a ariennir gan Gronfa Datblygu Ranbarthol Ewrop drwy Lywodraeth Cymru.



Bethlehem Community Project

A beautiful building situated in the centre of Blaenavon and set in ample grounds, there are few buildings that could offer a community what Bethlehem can. Bethlehem Community project is a newly formed committee with an interest in developing the building for community use. In order to serve a community well we all need to have an input into the development of this building ensuring that we get something that we want and need.

We are currently undertaking some research to discover potential projects. We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter and return it to Aladdin's Attic, Broad Street, Blaenavon by 30th June 2013.

We are also continually recruiting members for our group so if you think you can offer some help we would love to hear from you. Please contact Aimee Priest 01495 792032 or email gareth125@btinternet.com

A little support could really see this building become the heart of our town!

Walking Festival Success

The first Blaenavon Walking Festival was run successfully from 6th – 12th April. This week of walks around the World Heritage Site was a year in planning by Forgotten Landscapes Partnership volunteers and staff.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers who put a lot of effort in to make it a success. We have also all been grateful for the support from local experts who also led walks during the week – Frank Olding of Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council, Tom Sharpe from National Museum Wales and Alvin Nicholas of the FLP staff team.



Frank Olding bringing the landscape to life
Frank Olding yn dod â'r dirwedd yn fyw

Llwyddiant Gŵyl Gerdded

Trefnwyd Gŵyl Gerdded gyntaf lwyddiannus iawn ym Mlaenafon rhwng y 6ed - 12fed o Ebrill. Cymerwyd blwyddyn i drefnu'r wythnos o deithiau cerdded o amgylch Safle Treftadaeth y Byd gan wirfoddolwyr a staff y Bartneriaeth Tirweddau Angof.

Diolchiadau i'r holl wirfoddolwyr a wnaeth rhoi o'u hamser i sicrhau'r fath llwyddiant. Rydym hefyd yn ddiolchgar am gefnogaeth yr arbenigwyr lleol a aeth ati i arwain teithiau cerdded yn ystod yr wythnos sef, Frank Olding, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent, Tom Sharpe, Amgueddfa Cymru ac Alvin Nicholas, tîm staff PTA.

Farewell to Welfare!

The Blaenavon History Group has been meeting at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre since 2012. After successfully completing our first project Funeral to Festival, thanks to funding from the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership, we have recently completed a second book, Farewell to Welfare, charting the development of health provision in Blaenavon since the Industrial Revolution.

Using primary sources we have recognised the crucial importance of the Steeles, a family of master-surgeons and apothecaries, and noted the significance of the Hill and Hopkins families, ironmasters of Blaenavon, who invested their own finance into not only sick clubs but superannuation schemes for their employees. Out of these sick clubs emerged, over the decades, a medical aid society for Blaenavon Company employees which laid the foundations of the National Health Service in 1948.

We hope once Farewell to Welfare is on the shelves to begin another project, Blaenavon and its Diaspora. We all know about the migration of people into Wales but what is known of those Blaenavon people who left for America, South Africa, Russia, New Zealand? How long did their journey take? What did they do when they got there? Did they stay? Professor Bill Jones of Cardiff University will be presenting a lecture on the subject of the Welsh overseas, to the group, in May.

As a dedicated voluntary group, we feel we are playing a role in successfully reinvigorating interest and appreciation of forgotten elements of Blaenavon's heritage. New members are welcome as we start this exciting new project.



Railway News



Despite last summer's poor weather the Heritage Railway had its best year ever, helped by a record Santa season, so it's hoping to build on that for 2013, its 30th year of operation.

Things have already got off to a good start with almost 1000 passengers carried at Easter and the main station building at Furnace Sidings recently winning the Local Authority Building Control regional award for a small commercial building.

Looking ahead the Railway has its usual key events: Wartime Weekend (6/7 July), Model Railway Show (20/21 July), Family Fun Weekend (10/11 August), Transport Rally (25/26 August) and Ghost Train (27/31 October) all in the Calendar. The big event is the 30th Anniversary Steam Gala (14/15 September) when the Railway plays host to two special engines, the mighty super D "49395" and the lovely coal tank "58926".

Both could be found in the valleys, but 58926 is of special significance as it was the last of its class and spent many years tucked away in the loco shed at Abergavenny, out of sight of the powers that be. It was made famous when it worked the last train over the Heads of the Valley railway from Abergavenny to Merthyr (with another Super D) in 1958, something the railway will hope to recreate at the gala. A fitting way to celebrate 30 years of operation!

For more details of our events please either phone the Railway Shop on 01495 792263 or visit our website on www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Newyddion y Rheilffordd

Er gwaetha'r tywydd gwael yr haf diwethaf, cafodd y Rheilffordd Dreftadaeth ei blwyddyn orau erioed, diolch i dymor Nadolig heb ei ail, felly maent yn gobeithio ategu at hyn yn 2013, wrth iddynt ddathlu eu pen-blwydd yn 30.

Mae pethau'n argoeli'n dda gyda bron i 1000 o deithwyr ymweld â'r rheilffordd dros y Pasg a phrif adeilad yr orsaf yn ennill gwobr ranbarthol Rheoli Adeiladu gan yr Awdurdod Lleol yn ddiweddar am adeilad masnachol bach.

Gan edrych ymlaen, mae'r rheilffordd yn cynnal ei digwyddiadau allweddol unwaith eto gyda: Penwythnos Rhyfel (6/7 Gorff), Sioe Rheilffordd Fodel (20/21 Gorff), Penwythnos o Hwyl i'r Teulu (10/11 Awst), Rali Trafnidiaeth (25/26 Awst) a Thrên Sgrech (27/31 Hydref) oll yn y Calendr. Y digwyddiad mawr yw'r Gala Ager i Ddathlu Pen-blwydd yn 30 (14/15 Medi) pan fydd y Rheilffordd yn croesawu dwy injan arbennig, yr enfawr D "49395" a'r injan lo hyfryd "58926".

Arferai'r ddwy gael eu gweld yn y cymoedd, ond mae 58926 o bwysigrwydd mawr am mai hi oedd yr olaf o'i bath a threuliodd nifer i flwyddyn yn cuddio yn y sied loco yn Y Fenni, o olwg yr awdurdodau. Daeth yn enwog pan dynnodd y trên olaf dros reilffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd o'r Fenni i Ferthyr (gyda Super D arall) ym 1958, rhywbeth y bydd y rheilffordd yn gobeithio ei ail-greu yn ystod y gala. Ffordd wych o ddathlu 30 mlynedd!

Am ragor o fanylion am ein digwyddiadau, ffoniwch Siop y Rheilffordd ar 01495 792263 neu ewch i'n gwefan www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk



Forging a Digital Future from an Industrial Past



If you've wandered around Blaenavon recently, you may have noticed some unusual symbols near the town's historic buildings and interesting features.

These QR (Quick Response) codes were introduced in April as part of the Blaenavon Digital Passport, a fun and interactive guide that allows you to discover the hidden treasures of the World Heritage Site.

Why not try it out for yourself? Scan this code to 'meet' Sarah Hopkins, founder of St. Peter's School (now Blaenavon World Heritage Centre)!



Each code can be accessed using a Smartphone with a QR reader application which can be downloaded, free of charge, from online app stores such as Google Play or iTunes. Using the app, simply scan the code with the camera on your phone and you will receive some interesting facts, an image, an audio recording or a film relevant to a nearby historical site.

You can use your Smartphone to find out more about the people who shaped the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its community. Characters from Blaenavon's past, including Sarah Hopkins, Thomas Deakin and John Griffith Williams, have been 'brought to life' thanks to wonderful performances from local drama group 'Chance Encounters' and are featured as video content on the QR codes at relevant locations.

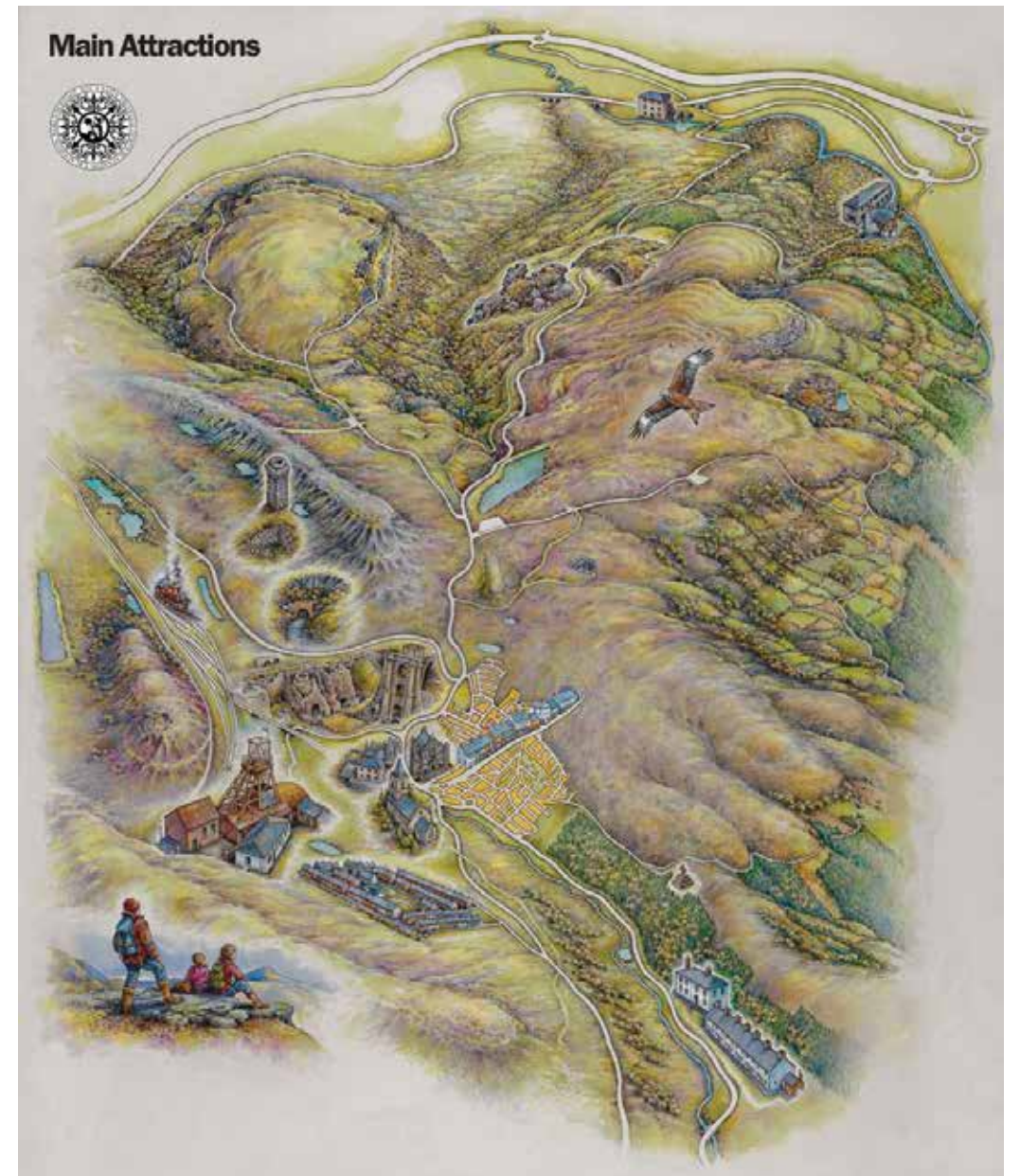
As part of this digital project, 'E-Trails' have been produced and are available as free iPhone apps. Following the Blaenavon Town Trail, you can see Blaenavon through the eyes of local historian, Victorian coalminer and Sunday School teacher Lewis Browning (1828-1909) as he guides you around the town centre as it was in 1906; or you can explore the 'Hidden Landscapes of Forge Side' and find out more about the significance of the community and landscape of Forge Side. Go to the iTunes App Store and download the 'Blaenavon Passport' for free!



Augmented Reality interpretation has also been launched in parts of the World Heritage Site, including in the grounds of Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, formerly St. Peter's School, and King Street, one of Blaenavon's earliest streets. Using a Smartphone whilst visiting these locations, you can see the blending of the present day reality with historic photographs or film recreations.

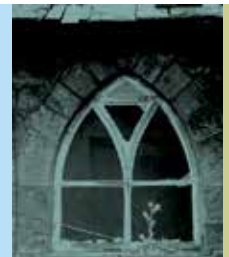
And that's not all! A mobile phone friendly version of the 'Visit Blaenavon' website (<http://visitblaenavon.mobi>) has been created, enabling visitors to the World Heritage Site to quickly find information about local attractions, outdoor activities, events, accommodation and places to eat, whilst on the go!

The World Heritage Site website homepage www.visitblaenavon.co.uk has also been revamped and now includes an interactive map of the area, beautifully illustrated by gifted local artist Michael Blackmore. This map lets you find out about local visitor attractions but also lets you discover more about the history and significance of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and surrounding area. So why not explore the industrial age in the digital age?



The Blaenavon Digital Passport project has been funded through the Heads of the Valleys Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

To find out more about these exciting new features please visit the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre or, for more information, please visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk or email blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk



Have your cake and eat it! Cael eich cacen a'i bwyta!

The World Heritage Centre Café in Blaenavon is open for coffees, cakes and hot food Tuesday to Sunday (and Bank Holidays!) 9.30am – 4.30pm. We are pleased to welcome back Jayne James, who will be the temporary custodian of the café while a tender process takes place for a permanent operator.

Sunday lunches are already proving popular and Jayne is offering a Pensioner Discount of 10% off on Wednesdays and introducing a Tea/Coffee Loyalty Card - buy five cups and get the sixth free!

With the better weather, the outside tables and benches are ideal sun spots to sit and enjoy the views across the Valley or watch people interacting with the new steel audio figures in the grounds.

Jayne also caters for pre booked parties and provides the catering for our functions: already she's covered an early morning breakfast meeting and refreshments at the Digital Festival in April.

So if you haven't been up to the World Heritage Centre for a while, (or you've never been), make sure that next time you visit the café and take a look at some new additions at the Centre for 2103.

Mae Caffi Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd ym Mlaenafon ar agor am goffi, cacennau a bwyd poeth o ddydd Mawrth i ddydd Sul (a Gwyliau Banc!) rhwng 9.30am a 4.30pm. Mae'n bleser gennym groesawu Jayne James yn ôl, ac fe fydd y caffi yn ei dwylo medrus hi dros dro, yn ystod y broses tendro i ddod o hyd i weithredwr parhaol.

Mae ciniawau ar y Sul eisoes yn profi i fod yn boblogaidd ac mae Jayne yn cynnig Gostyngiad o 10% i bensynwyr bob dydd Mercher a hefyd yn cyflwyno Cerdyn Ffyddlondeb ar gyfer Te/Coffi - prynwch bum paned ac fe gewch y chweched yn rhad ac am ddim!

Gyda'r tywydd bellach yn gwella, mae'r byrddau a'r meinciau y tu allan yn lle delfrydol i eistedd yn yr haul a mwynhau'r golygfeydd ar draws y Cwm neu i wyllo pobl yn mwynhau'r ffigurau clywedol newydd o ddr sydd yma ar y safle.

Mae Jayne hefyd yn darparu ar gyfer partïon sy'n bwico ymlaen llaw, a hithau hefyd sydd yn arlwyio ar gyfer ein digwyddiadau ni: mae hi eisoes wedi darparu ar gyfer cyfarfod cynnar dros frecwest yn ogystal â lluniaeth ar gyfer yr Wyl Ddigidol ym mis Ebrill.

Felly, os na fuoch i'r Ganolfan Treftadaeth y Byd ers tro, (neu os na fuoch erioed), gwnewch yn siŵr y tro nesa'i chi alw heibio, eich bod yn ymweld â'r caffi a chymryd ychydig o amser i edrych ar rhai o'r ychwanegiadau diweddar yn y Ganolfan ar gyfer 2103.



Blaenafon Community Heritage & Cordell Museum Amgueddfa Cordell a threftadaeth Cymuned Blaenafon



Mr Mike Tanner, Secretary of the Cordell Community Heritage Museum provides an update on recent activities...

The Cordell Museum staff together with family historians and Blaenavon Library staff recently visited the Gwent Archives now situated in Ebbw Vale, having been relocated from Croesyceiliog in 2011. The group were treated to a conducted tour of the facility including research & reading rooms including the extensive archive store areas. We were told that a constant cool temperature was the ideal environment for its unique collection of documentation, housed in 10km of excellent storage which will preserve documentation for future generations.

There is free parking on site but no Café currently and don't forget to take some identification if you wish to use the facilities. However, this wonderful building also includes the old Steel Works museum which is also a recommended visit.

Hanes y gweithgareddau diweddaraf gan Mr Mike Tanner, Ysgrifennydd Amgueddfa Treftadaeth Gymunedol Cordell...

Yn ddiweddar fe wnaeth staff Amgueddfa Cordell ynghyd â haneswyr teuluol a staff Llyfrgell Blaenafon ymweld ag Archifau Gwent sydd bellach wedi eu lleoli yng Nglyn Ebwy ers symud o Groesyceiliog yn 2011. Cafodd y grŵp daith dywysedig o amgylch y cyfleuster, yn cynnwys yr ystafelloedd ymchwil, ystafelloedd darllen a'r storffeydd helaeth sy'n gartref i'r archifau. Cawsom wybod mai tymheredd claeur cyson yw'r amgylchedd delfrydol ar gyfer y casgliad unigryw o ddogfennau sydd yn cael eu cadw mewn storfa ragorol 10km o hyd er mwyn eu diogelu ar gyfer y cenedlaethau i ddod.

Mae yna faes parcio rhad ac am ddim ar y safle ond nid oes Caffi yno ar hyn o bryd a pheidiwch anghofio mynd â thystiolaeth yn dangos pwy ydych chi os hoffech ddefnyddio'r cyfleusterau. Mae'r adeilad rhagorol yma hefyd yn cynnwys amgueddfa'r hen Waith Dur sydd hefyd yn llawn haeddi ymweliad.



“Tell Tale Trail”

The ‘Tell Tale Trail’ is a new innovative, interactive audio trail around the grounds of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. The trail features life size silhouettes (made from weathering steel) of children playing schoolyard games, as they will have done during the time that St.Peter’s was a school - one of the first free schools in Wales.

The characters will each have a tale to tell and will relay stories of school life and the changes they have seen in the landscape around Blaenavon. Visitors will also be invited to join in their schoolyard games, so watch out!

The purpose of the trail is to engage new audiences, especially younger visitors, and to encourage inter-generational learning in a safe & secure environment, before encouraging them to explore the wider landscape of the World Heritage Site via a series of Treasure Trails.

The visitor winds up the clockwork mechanism and selects a channel to listen to, but, you may have to look for some of the figures....!

This extra interpretation is part of an on-going process to improve the visit for younger children and families, with more developments due to take place within the Heritage Centre in the next few months.



“Llwybr Straeon”

Mae'r ‘Llwybr Straeon’ yn llwybr newydd, rhyngweithiol o amgylch tir Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Ar y llwybr mae cysgodluniau maint llawn (wedi eu gwneud o ddr hindreulio) o blant yn chwarae gemau buarth ysgol, fel yr oeddent arfer ei wneud pan oedd ‘St.Peter’s’ yn ysgol - un o'r ysgolion cyntaf yng Nghymru i gynnig addysg am ddim.

Fe fydd gan bob un o'r cymeriadau hanes i'w adrodd gan gyfleu storïau am fywyd ysgol a'r newidiadau y maen nhw wedi ei gweld i'r dirwedd o amgylch Blaenafon. Fe fydd ymwelwyr hefyd yn cael eu gwahodd i ymuno yn eu gemau buarth ysgol, felly gwylwch!

Diben y llwybr yw denu cynulleidfaoedd newydd, yn enwedig ymwelwyr ifanc, ac

annog dysgu sy'n pontio'r cenedlaethau mewn amgylchedd diogel, cyn eu hannog i archwilio tirwedd ehangach Safle Treftadaeth y Byd drwy gyfres o Llwybrau Trysor.

Mae'r ymwelydd yn weindio'r mecanwaith clocwaith ac yn dewis sianel i wrando arni, ond, efallai bydd angen i chi chwilio am rhai o'r ffigurau....!

Mae'r dehongliad ychwanegol yma yn rhan o broses barhaus i gynnig gwell profiad i blant iau a theuluoedd, ac mae datblygiadau pellach ar y gweill yn y Ganolfan Treftadaeth yn ystod y misoedd nesaf.

Iron Bridge Restored! Adfer Pont Haearn!

One of Wales' oldest iron bridges has been reinstated following major refurbishment.

The Aaron Brute bridge, which dates from between 1820 - 1845, was removed last year. It is considered to be one of the earliest examples of this type of bridge still surviving in South Wales and represents a significant survival of the industrial infrastructure of the period. It is constructed from three cast iron arches joined by iron plates on top and tie bars between the arches. The bridge was closed to the public in 2003 following concerns about potential risk from collapse.

Councillor Bob Wellington, Leader of Torfaen Council, said: “It is incredible to see the restored bridge placed back in the World Heritage Site. I was there to see the delicate removal of the historic bridge last summer and the restoration project has been a complete success. I would like to congratulate everyone involved and I'm sure the bridge will become a key visitor attraction located along a new waymarked trail which links many key historic features of interest between the World Heritage Centre, Big Pit and Forgeside”.

The restoration is part of the Valleys Regional Park Programme with support secured from the European Regional Development Fund, Heads of the Valleys Programme and Cadw through the Welsh Government.



Mae un o bontydd haearn hynaf Cymru wedi cael ei hadfer yn dilyn gwaith ailwampio sylweddol.

Cafodd pont Aaron Brute, sy'n dyddio o'r cyfnod rhwng 1820 i 1845, ei thynnu oddi yno llynedd, yn ystod yr haf. Wedi ei hadeiladu ar ffurf tair rhychant haearn bwrw wedi eu huno gan blatiau haearn â barrau clymu rhwng y bwâu, caiff ei hystyried yn un o'r enghreifftiau cynharaf o'r math hon o strwythur diwydiannol o'r cyfnod i oroesi yn Ne Cymru. Caewyd y bont i'r cyhoedd yn 2003 oherwydd y pryderon ynghylch y posibilrwydd iddi gwmpo.

Dywedodd y Cyng. Bob Wellington, arweinydd cyngor Torfaen: “Roedd hi'n anghredadwy gweld y bont wedi ei hadfer ac yn ôl ar Safle Treftadaeth y Byd. Roeddwn yno pan gafodd y bont hanesyddol ei thynnu oddi yno'r haf diwethaf. Bu'r prosiect atgyweirio yn llwyddiant pur. Hoffwn longyfarch pawb fu'n rhan o'r prosiect ac rwy'n siŵr y bydd y bont yn atyniad allweddol ymhlith ymwelwyr yn dilyn ei lleoliad ar lwybr sy'n cysylltu llawer o nodweddion hanesyddol allweddol o ddi-ddordeb rhwng Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd, Pwll Mawr a Forgeside”.

Mae'r gwaith adfer yn rhan o Raglen Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd gyda chefnogaeth Cronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop, Rhaglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd a Cadw, trwy Lywodraeth Cymru.



Coming Events / Digwyddiadau sydd i ddod

Education in Blaenavon

1 May/Mai – 30 June/
Mehefin 2013

Created by the Blaenavon Community Heritage & Cordell Museum, this exhibition is about education in Blaenavon including the historic St Peter's School, opened in 1816 and closed in the 1980's that the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is now situated within. Photographers, written memories and objects will be on display from a number of schools from Blaenavon.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

100mph in a car!

4 June/Mehefin 2013

Blood house SSC is a World Land Speed Record car. The project's aim is two-fold: inspire young people to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and break it to 1000mph – yes in a car!

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

7 – 8 June/Mehefin 2013

Fun and festivities for everyone, what a perfect way to spend a summer's night but with laughter, music and magic in one of Shakespeare's best loved plays set against the backdrop of one of Wales's most historic sites.

Blaenavon Ironworks, Tel/Ffôn 01495 792615.

Life on the Dole in Monmouthshire before 1834

11 June/Mehefin 2013

Life for the poor has always been hard. Dr Richard Allen reveals how Poor Law Relief, the dole of its day, was delivered in Blaenavon and elsewhere in Gwent from the time of Queen Elizabeth I until the emergence of workhouses early in the nineteenth century.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

World Heritage Festival

29 – 30 June/Mehefin 2013

This two day event celebrates the cultural and rural heritage of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Festivities are located in Blaenavon Heritage Town on Saturday and at Garn Lakes on Sunday.

Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

Upstairs, Downstairs, The Class of the World Heritage Site

2 July/Gorffennaf – 27 September/Medi 2013

Come along to the World Heritage Centre this summer to explore the people of Blaenavon. Discover the workers and the masters, wives and husbands, sons and daughters. Enjoy the stories of love revenge and happiness and where it all took place!

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

1940's Weekend

6 – 7 July/Gorffennaf

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Cwmbran Photographic Society

8 July/Gorffennaf – 19 August/Awst 2013

The annual exhibition from the Cwmbran Photographic Society, with compositions from the local area and further afield.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

Model Railway Show

20 – 21 July/Gorffennaf

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Miners Fortnight

22 July/Gorffennaf – 2 August/Awst 2013,

11am – 4pm
Sea, sand and Coal Dust activities for children of all ages including storytelling and craft making.

Big Pit, Tel/Ffôn 029 2057 3650.

Our Gala Day

27 July/Gorffennaf,
11am – 4pm

A fun filled day with Punch and Judy, balloon modelling, Blaenavon Town Band, competitions, demonstrations, workshops and much more. You'll be sure to find something to entertain all the family and to help you get into the party spirit!

Big Pit, Tel/Ffôn 029 2057 3650.

Antique Trinkets and Defunct Industrial Machinery

On display until September/
Medi

Looking at the demise of heavy industry in Wales and the rise of the 'industrial museum'.

Big Pit, Tel/Ffôn 029 2057 3650.

Family Fun Weekend

10 – 11 August/Awst

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

The Defence of Blaenavon - a Welsh town at war

10 – 11 August/Awst 2013,

10.30am - 4pm. Entry free
Return of the successful World War Two themed event centred on Blaenavon Ironworks. Enjoy plays, living history displays, weapon displays and music, painting a vivid picture of life during this troubled time. There will be a chance to listen to real stories of life on the home front told by the firesides of Stack Square.

Blaenavon Ironworks, Tel/Ffôn 01495 792615.

Vision Art Factory

24 August/Awst – 14 October/Hydref 2013

An exhibition by local artists on the theme of 'Wild Wales'.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

Transport Rally

25 – 26 August/Awst

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Tombs, Temples and Pyramids

10 September/Medi 2013

Looking at the archaeology and architecture of Ancient Egypt and how it is preserved today. Bring your own holiday photos to compare. Must be pre booked.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

Annual Steam Gala

14 – 15 September/Medi

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Local Archaeology of the Blaenavon Area

30 August/Awst – 14 October/Hydref 2013

Blaenavon's local volunteer archaeology group will present the findings of their year's work in this exhibition, set in the heart of the World Heritage Site.

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Tel/Ffôn 01495 742333.

Ghost Train

27/31 October/Hydref

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

Santa Specials

December Weekends

Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Tel/Ffôn 01495 792263 / www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

